

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s):	Shotaro Takemoto, et al.	Examiner:	Unassigned
Serial No:	To be assigned	Art Unit:	Unassigned
Filed:	Herewith	Docket:	16224Z
For:	ENDOSCOPIC SUTURING SYSTEM	Dated:	December 1, 2003

Mail Stop Patent Application
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, it is requested that the following reference, which is also listed on the attached Form PTO-1449, be made of record in the above-identified case.

1. U.S. Patent No. 5,171,258, dated December 15, 1992, issued to Bales et al.


CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY "EXPRESS MAIL"

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Date of Deposit: December 1, 2003

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. § 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, Mail Stop Patent Application, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

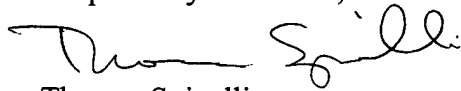
Dated: December 1, 2003


Thomas Spinelli

The above-cited reference is not being submitted herewith, as copies of U.S. patents are no longer required per the waiver of 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(2)(i) in effect as of June 30, 2003. The relevance of the above-cited reference has been described in the specification.

Inasmuch as this Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted in accordance with the schedule set out in 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b), no statement or fee is required.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas Spinelli". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Thomas" and last name "Spinelli" clearly distinguishable.

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